



# News Release

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360-236-4074  
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## State disciplines health care providers

**OLYMPIA** — The Washington State Department of Health has taken disciplinary actions or withdrawn charges against health care providers in our state.

The department's Health Systems Quality Assurance Division works with boards, commissions, and advisory committees to set licensing standards for more than 80 health care professions (e.g., medical doctors, nurses, counselors).

Information about health care providers is on the agency website. Click on "[Look up a healthcare provider license](#)" in the "How Do I?" section of the [Department of Health website](#) (doh.wa.gov). The site includes information about a health care provider's license status, the expiration and renewal date of their credential, disciplinary actions and copies of legal documents issued after July 1998. This information is also available by calling 360-236-4700. Consumers who think a health care provider acted unprofessionally are also encouraged to call and report their complaint.

## Benton County

In August 2012 the Chiropractic Commission charged chiropractor **Perry E. Barnhill** (CH00033927) with unprofessional conduct. Barnhill was convicted of third-degree theft in 2012.

In August 2012 the Medical Commission entered into an agreed order with physician **Animesh Sahai** (MD00045559) and placed his license on probation for three years. Sahai's medical records for 12 patients were substandard.

## Clallam County

In August 2012 the Nursing Assistant Program charged registered nursing assistant **Carolyn R. Hamilton** (NA00189977) with unprofessional conduct. Hamilton allegedly stole about \$1,190 in money orders from a patient, and charged a personal purchase to the patient's debit card. She also provided care to this patient with an expired credential. She pleaded guilty to four counts of second-degree theft in 2012.

### **Clark County**

After a hearing in August 2012, the Counselor Program granted the credential of agency affiliated counselor **Thomas Harry Eaton** (CG60253733). Eaton had nine criminal convictions from 1994 to 2009. He must comply with terms and conditions including consulting with a substance abuse monitoring program, and participating in that program if recommended.

### **Cowlitz County**

In August 2012 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program granted the credential of chemical dependency professional **Amber Dawn Flowers** (CP60264413), also known as Amber D. Myers. In 2010 Flowers agreed to participate in a substance-abuse monitoring program as part of probation for her chemical dependency professional trainee certification. She must continue to comply with terms of her 2010 probation order.

### **King County**

In August 2012 the Secretary of Health charged registered nurse and advanced registered nurse practitioner **Leif S. Benjestorf** (RN00174674, AP60201664-NP) with unprofessional conduct. Benjestorf allegedly had a romantic, sexual relationship with a patient.

In August 2012 the Counselor Program granted the credential application of agency affiliated counselor **Dottie Marie Brown** (CG60297318) and placed it on probation for at least three years. Brown must comply with terms that include consulting with a substance abuse monitoring program.

In August 2012 the Health Care Assistant Program granted the credential of **Lisa Nichole Ellefsen** (HC60268930) and placed it on probation for at least three years. Ellefsen was convicted of driving under the influence on two separate occasions in 2012.

In August 2012 the Nursing Assistant Program placed the credential of certified nursing assistant **Ashleigh Futrell** (NC10099613) on probation for three years. Her probation terms include that she can't be employed by a nurse's registry, home health agency, temporary agency, or community-based care.

In August 2012 the Chiropractic Commission amended April 2012 charges against chiropractor **Shawn G. Jonas** (CH00003146). Jonas allegedly improperly billed insurance for patient treatment and failed to keep proper patient records.

In August 2012 the Nursing Assistant Program charged certified nursing assistant **Max Ortiz-Triana** (NC10083224) with unprofessional conduct. Ortiz-Triana was convicted of second-degree rape in 2011, and driving under the influence in 2002.

After a hearing in August 2012, the Chemical Dependency Professional Program granted the credential of chemical dependency professional trainee **Alena Laureen Rogers** (CO60274680).

Rogers had five criminal convictions from 1998 to 2008. She must comply with conditions that include consulting with a substance abuse monitoring program.

### **Kitsap County**

In August 2012 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program granted the credential of chemical dependency professional trainee **Cindy Christine Webb** (CO60292075) and placed it on probation for at least two years. Webb had seven convictions from 1998 to 2010 including four first-degree driving with a suspended license or revocation convictions.

### **Pierce County**

In August 2012 the Nursing Assistant Program charged registered nursing assistant **Wendy Lynn Bell** (NA00083124) with unprofessional conduct. Bell allegedly had about nine dogs living in the home where she also provided care to three patients. When a department investigator visited the adult family home for an inspection, Bell wouldn't allow the investigator to enter for several minutes. The Department of Social and Health Services also issued Bell citations regarding animals on the premises, and failing to keep her home in good repair.

In August 2012 the Nursing Assistant Program ended the probation order against certified nursing assistant **Kedeadra S. Goodman** (NC10049924).

In August 2012 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program placed the credential of chemical dependency professional **Joseph Kim Myrick** (CP00005499) on probation for at least five years or until he completes his substance abuse monitoring contract. In June 2012 the program charged Myrick with unprofessional conduct. He allegedly relapsed and used cocaine on more than one occasion while in a substance abuse monitoring program.

### **Snohomish County**

In August 2012 the Nursing Assistant Program charged registered nursing assistant **Joel S. Sijera** (NA60032121) with unprofessional conduct. Sijera allegedly bruised a patient's chin and lower face area while feeding the patient.

### **Spokane County**

In August 2012 the Counselor Program ended the probation order against agency affiliated counselor **Eric Wayne Cook** (CG60152071).

In August 2012 the Nursing Assistant Program charged registered and certified nursing assistant **Kevin Anthony Lehman** (NA60195367, NC60197856) with unprofessional conduct for failing to include criminal convictions on his credential applications. He was convicted of second-degree arson in 2009, and driving under the influence in 2011. In 2012 he was convicted of second-degree attempted robbery, second-degree burglary, and third-degree assault.

### **Yakima County**

In August 2012 the Nursing Assistant Program charged registered and certified nursing assistant **Brittney Anne Lewis** (NA60143578, NC60138027) with unprofessional conduct. It's alleged that Lewis tested positive for methamphetamine during a workplace drug screen, and admitted to a department investigator that she had used methamphetamine.

**Note to Editors:** Health care providers charged with unprofessional conduct have 20 days to respond to the Department of Health in writing. The case then enters the settlement process. If no disciplinary agreement can be reached, the case will go to a hearing.

The [Department of Health website](http://www.doh.wa.gov) (www.doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).

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